(b) if not, the details in this regard and whether it is also a fact that education standard in the Government primary schools is not found upto the mark;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps decided to be taken by Government to fix annual targets in coming years, for improving education standard in the country's primary schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) As per District Information System of Education (DISE) data for 2006-07 of the total children enrolled in primary schools 82.50% children are in Government schools.

In XIth Five Year Plan focus of primary education is on quality. Steps for improving the quality of education in Government schools undertaken under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan include *inter-alia*, recruitment of 8.81 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratios, in-service training of teachers for a period of 20 days every year, free distribution of textbooks for primary and upper primary classes to SC, ST and girl students, regular academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 6360 Block Resource Centres (BRCs) and 681 4 Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs) and remedial teaching for enhancing learning achievement.

Literacy among rural women

†1728. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the literacy among women in villages of the country is only four to five per cent;

(b) if so, whether programmes for upliftment of a large number of women, including Anganwadi Workers, are not running smoothly due to lack of literacy;

(c) if so, whether Government is formulating any meaningful plan for literacy among rural women; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir. According to 2001 census, the rural female literacy rate in India is 46.1%.

(b) to (d) Do not arise. However, the Government is implementing various literacy and skill development programmes to improve the literacy rate amongst women.

Regulation of private universities

†1729. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that education has turned into business in the age of liberalisation;

†*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*

(b) whether Government is considering to formulate an action plan to regulate private universities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The share of private participation in education has increased over the years. Private Universities are regulated by the UGC (Establishment and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003. Further, according to the University Grants Commission (UGC), it has recently constituted an Expert Committee to formulate regulations for admission and fee structure in private self-financing institutions Deemed-to-be-Universities.

Students going abroad for studies

1730. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students who went abroad for studies between 2001 and 2006;

(b) whether it is a fact that around 90 per cent of the students never came back;

(c) if so, whether it would not cause brain drain in the country; and

(d) what is the policy of Government on this and the steps taken to achieve the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The data in this regard is not Centrally maintained.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) At present students can pursue studies abroad in institutions admitting them for the purpose.

Entertainment of physically challenged kids

1731. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, due to lack of facilities in various schools in Maharashtra, physical challenged kids are not entertained by schools;

(b) whether the city schools, which are ill-equipped to deal with the wheelchair-bound students, are proving to be a hurdle to their dreams;

(c) if so, whether these disabled children are deprived of having education in the State; and

(d) if so, what concrete measures Government proposes to take to provide infrastructure and also equip all the schools, so that physically challenged kids are admitted for study?